APPARATUS FOR A SIMPLIFIED POWER DISTURBANCE INDICATOR GAGE

WITH

LEARNING CAPABILITY OPTIONS

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[M568]

CROSS -REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Not applicable

FEDERAL SPONSORSHIP -Not Applicable

MICROFICHE APPENDIX - Not Applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1.) FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to methods of measuring electrical power line quality by detecting, characterizing and indicating the magnitude of specific electrical anomalies and defects which occur on the power lines. It is known that these particular anomalies, and others, can affect the operation of sensitive electronic equipment which may be connected to the power lines. Power lines are those which bring electrical power into a home, factory or other establishment. Power lines can provide single phase or poly-phase power, with typical voltages ranging from 117 volts RMS to 480 Volts, RMS. IT must be understood that any convenient voltage may appear on power lines.

In this apparatus, anomaly detection is limited to voltage range, voltage surges and sags, voltage dropouts, and voltage spikes or fast transients.

The particular elements measured in this gage have been selected because they occur extremely rapidly, and have deleterious effects on connected equipment and machinery.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.

There are many good power line quality meters in use today. The primary problem with these instruments is that the good gages are very complex, and most often require an engineer or highly trained technician to analyze the data that is taken, in order to determine the nature of the power line anomalies that are present. As a result, these gages, while performing well, become virtually useless to the non-technical user who simply wants to know if his equipment failures are caused by problems that are directly related to the quality of his power lines.

Heretofore, line monitoring equipment that could respond to such fast events required an experienced technician with complex equipment to analyze the defects, their magnitude, and possible disturbing effects on the connected equipment. The present invention provides easily understood displays of existing power line anomalies and the disruptions that occur. These are the major line defects which usually have the greatest effect on equipment operation. These selected anomalies and disruptions can be either transient or periodic, long term, or short term.

Although there are many other types of anomalies, many are benign, and do not always affect equipment operation. In this invention, measured disruptions in this invention have been limited to: Line voltage fluctuations such as surges and sags, transient phenomena such as positive and negative directed spikes, glitches or line dropouts, and nominal voltage fluctuations. The gage of the instant invention can measure the number of cycles of the observed outage, where one cycle is equal to 16.6 milliseconds when the line frequency is 60 cycles per second (Hertz) and to 20 milliseconds when the frequency is 50 cycles per second (Hertz). Simple colored LED displays, or colored incandescent displays and Bar-Graph readouts provide information as to the type of defects observed and their duration. Accordingly, the user

needs no technical training to use the gage of the present invention, but to simply look at the combinations of colored lights to know what defect has been recognized, and for how long that defect has persisted. The numerical displays show the magnitude of the observed voltages.

The primary object of the present invention, therefore, is to determine whether there are anomalies on the power lines which can affect the quality of the incoming power, specifically, as such quality is related to the performance of the machines or equipment being powered, and to simply show the type of anomaly and the duration of that anomaly.

The present invention provides simplified displays which do not require extensive training of the personnel who must use the gage. An untrained technician can use the present invention and know immediately whether line deficiencies exist, what type of power line difficulties exist, the duration of such defects, and the possible related effects on his connected equipment. Furthermore, the gage has the ability to "remember" the anomalies that have been measured and compare a new set of measurements with those previously measured. In the case where the previously measured anomalies have not caused problems with the attached equipment, the gage can compare line power quality against known anomalies. An additional feature allows the user to program a baseline of known data into the gage and have the gage only report when line anomalies exceed that baseline. Usually, the baseline represents line anomalies which will not affect the connected equipment, enabling the gage to report when line anomalies approach the levels which will cause the connected equipment to malfunction. The gage also shows when there are no line anomalies. The absence of line anomalies becomes very significant when equipment has been malfunctioning, and the cause is not known. The absence of line anomalies often directs the service technician to discover an equipment failure.

The present invention will monitor the AC line voltage and determine and display the true AC line nominal RMS (Root Mean Square) voltage. Spikes, surges, and sags will be referenced to the measured true nominal line voltage. Where necessary, critical load characteristics and rated voltages can be pre-entered into the gage so that significant variations therefrom can be identified as potential problem sources. When the incoming power lines have defects which are known not to affect the attached equipment, these defects are not shown in the indicator panel. This saves a lot of troubleshooting time.

There are types of electrical equipment and machinery which are very prone to failure when there is a very short line voltage dropout or when a very short (1/4 of a cycle) line transient impulse occurs, while at the same time exhibiting no failure when the AC line is experiencing a surge or a sag. Sensitivities to this type of transient power line failures are very difficult to find and quantify because of their short duration. There are other equipments or machinery which are sensitive to surges and sags but do not suffer when there is a short line transient present.

An important secondary feature of the present invention is the ability to compare the instantaneous variations of the power mains, against the specifications of the equipment being protected, and finally, for the power quality metering equipment of the present invention to adjust itself so that the reported anomalies are those which can affect the equipment being protected, thus preventing false alarms.

In those cases where line voltage transients, dropouts, surges and sags do not affect the powered equipment, these anomalies need not be considered as line defects. This situation can vary from one connected equipment to another connected equipment. (The connected equipment is often referred to as the "critical load"). It becomes very important to be able to

identify what power line defects affect the electrical equipment or machinery that is powered by the power lines, and to develop a method of measuring and displaying only those defects which do affect the attached equipment operation or performance.

Despite the improved capabilities, the gage remains easy to read and understand, without the need for advanced training. The average electronic technician can learn to read and analyze the readouts of this gage in just a few minutes. The displays are either illuminated colored lights, alpha-numeric displays, or a combination of both types of displays. No conventional meters or oscilloscopes are required.

FIELD PROBLEMS SOLVED BY THIS INVENTION.

Power Quality has caused extreme concern during the past decade, and continues to be a problem. Electronic equipment has become more complex, and most industrial and many commercial systems today are controlled by some kind of computer or computerized system. However, computers are not the only problem area. Despite advances in electronic technology, there are innumerable systems, which still employ relay controlled logic for their operation. Unfortunately, these relay operated systems are extremely susceptible to short AC line dropouts. Unless relays in the equipment have been latched, many relays cannot tolerate power line dropouts of four or more milliseconds.

In a real, but typical situation, computer or relay controlled machinery has failed to operate for "mysterious causes". When called in for a service call, the manufacturer's technician tells the user that the failure was due to a "defective synchronizer board but do not worry, we will send you an immediate replacement". This response has made the customer feel comfortable, but when the new synchronizer board arrives, and is installed in the machine, the problem re-appears.

We have discovered that often, the problem is not with the electronics, but with the

sensitive relays which control the operation of the machinery. This is especially true of pre-computer systems, where the control logic is composed of relays. Typical relays used in these applications have been found to be typified by those manufactured by Struthers-Dunn/Magnecraft 314/215, MEC series GV relays, and others. Identical relays are manufactured by Potter and Brumfield and other companies. These octal - based relays have been selected by designers because they are "pluggable" and are readily replaced in the field. Even a small dropout of AC power for as little as four milliseconds (0.004 seconds) can cause the relays to malfunction and the system to fail. The present invention can identify such short dropouts, and provide a latched display if that failure mechanism.

An important, and often overlooked feature of a power disturbance gage, as in the present invention, is the ability to reveal when there are no defects on the power lines. Very often malfunction of a piece of machinery is blamed on the power line having disruptions or other anomalies that are not visible without the attachment of complex testing equipment, and further analysis by a specially trained engineer. In an actual case, when the power disturbance gage of the present invention revealed that there were no defects in the power mains, a further examination revealed that the equipment being serviced was failing due to a clogged filter element.

Furthermore, small transients have been known to disrupt sensitive electronic equipment, and many devices have been developed to immunize equipment from the effects of power-related problems.

These devices which protect the equipment form the problems on the power mains include capacitors, semiconductor energy absorbers, complete line noise filters, and Uninterruptible Power Supplies, (UPS). The UPS can provide backup electrical power in the event that the power mains become corrupted or the source of electrical power vanishes

completely. Other types of UPS include line reactive power systems which actually can provide artificial notches or bursts of electrical power to fill the non-periodic momentary voids which appear in the power grid. Power corruption of the Alternating Current power lines (or power mains) can include power line transients, voltage dropouts, voltage surges, voltage sags, phase shifts, phase loss, electrical noise, current dropouts, complete loss of power, phase delays and other unusual anomalies.

A common method of power protection has been the design of power- line monitoring equipment which can actually detect and measure the extent of power line anomalies, and thereby control the power protection devices which are connected to the power mains and then supply auxiliary power to the load. For example, if there is a momentary dropout or loss of electrical power, a battery powered backup supply can provide stored energy to fill the gap produced by the power dropout. Such interactive power protection is costly and requires routine maintenance.

During the past decade, however, the industry has grown, and power line detection devices have become very sophisticated. Some detection devices can verbally announce a power - line problem. There are protection devices which can analyze the trends on a power line and even predict that there is very likely to be a power outage or a power problem before the problem actually exists.

Sensitive line power outage detectors often cause false alarms or cause the backup power supply to become active unnecessarily. This activity shortens battery life, and increases the need for expensive maintenance. One of the major problems with the present power line detection devices is that they are extremely complicated and as a result, these line detection devices are difficult to use and are even more difficult to understand. Often, an engineer or specially trained technician is required to analyze the readouts in order to determine what the AC power problem is. Clearly, what is needed is a Power Disturbance Indicator which provides a simplified readout

defining the line power problems, without the need for interpretation or interpolation. The present invention is designed to fill that need.

Design Engineers are faced with three problems which must be solved. A power gage must readily and clearly identify line power problems, and also be able to respond to changes in product design and sensitivities of the product to line power anomalies. The power disturbance gage must also be able to display fast acting anomalies that occur when no person is present to observe them.

Equipment manufacturers have not ignored the problems. Out of necessity, equipment engineers have designed their newer equipments to be more immune to power line disturbances. As an example, power supplies of computers have been reinforced by the addition of larger filtering elements which are capable of absorbing the energy in line transients, and capable of withstanding significant line surges and dropouts without affecting the computer or machinery performance. Some computer power supplies can enable the computer electronics to function with complete power line outages as long as twenty milliseconds. This "hardening" of electronic equipment has done several things for the industry. First, the need for very sophisticated line power monitoring equipment has been reduced, and the overall reliability of the electronic equipment has been greatly enhanced.

With the advent of "hardened" systems, the need for power line disturbance analyzers has changed. No longer does a line monitor need to respond to very tiny or very fast glitches in line power, or to small line transients of but a few milliseconds of duration. In some cases, power line surges or voltage sags can be tolerated without affecting the attached equipment.

In many cases, where relays are not used for control logic, complete power dropouts for a half of a cycle (8 milliseconds) can pass through the system unnoticed.

Furthermore, the line Power Disturbance Indicator must be able to operate with all AC standard line voltages and with either single phase or polyphase power. (Generally, polyphase power is defined as three-phase power, but some electrical power systems use more than three phases. For example, steel mills use six phase power for their large motors and motor control systems.)

Another use for the present invention is to alert the operator to the root cause of the electrical problem in his power grid so that necessary precautions and corrections may be taken, or so that the cause of his problem may be accurately determined, and corrected.

2.0 RELATED ART (PRIOR ART)

There are many types of line monitors that have been patented. Most. however, are very complex, difficult to use, and difficult to understand.

The following patents, though not totally inclusive, are typically indicative of the prior art in this field.

1. U.S. Patent number 5,574,654. "Electrical Parameter Analyzer". Inventor Richard P. Bingham et al, Issued November 12, 1996, assigned to Dranetz Technologies Inc.

This invention describes a programmable analyzer for characterizing an electrical power supply.

2. U.S. Patent number 5,530,738. "Electric Power Measuring Equipment with Speech Synthesis Feature" Inventor, Alexander McEachern, Issued June 25, 1996. Assigned to Infrastructure Instruments Inc. This invention describes a method for analyzing an AC power mains and reporting the measured characteristics by means of a speech synthesizer.

3. U.S. Patent number 5,541,468. "Method and Apparatus for Storing an Increasing Number of

Sequential Real-time Samples in a Fixed Amount of Memory". Inventor, Alexander McEachern, issued January 2, 1996. Assigned to Basic Measuring Instruments Inc.

This invention describes a method for storing an increasing number of data points such as those encountered in alternating current power line parameters by employing a technique for data compression so as to maximize the amount of stored data within a limited size of memory.

4. U.S. Patent number 6,100,679. "Voltage Indicating Instrument." Inventor: Thomas A. McCasland. Issued August 8, 2000. Assigned to Tasco Inc.

This invention provides a method for indicating the presence of dangerous voltages on an operative portion of a tool. Typically a modified screwdriver or nut driver is used as a probe.

5. U.S. Patent number 5,514,969. "Impedance Measurement in a High Voltage Power System". Inventor Robert A. Moore et al. issued May 7, 1996. Assigned to Reliable Power Meters, Inc.

This invention uses voltage and current probes to compute output and load impedances of a high voltage power system. the invention removes the necessity to disconnect portions of the circuit to make these measurements.

6. U.S. Patent number 4,187,461 "Dynamic Threshold Impulse Directivity Indicator." Inventor: Philip P. Cox . Issued February 5, 1980. Assigned to Dranetz Engineering Laboratories, Inc

This invention describes a method for detecting an impulse voltage by comparing its level with an automatically determined threshold.

7. U.S. Patent number 5,825,656. "Apparatus and Method for Power Disturbance Analysis by Display of Power Quality." Issued October 20, 1998. to Moore et al. Assigned to Reliable Power Meters, Inc

8. U.S. Patent number 5,825,656. "Apparatus and Method for Power Disturbance Analysis by Display of Power Quality Information." Inventor: Moore, et al. Issued October 20, 1998. Assigned to Reliable Power Meters, Inc. This invention samples the AC power to derive Total Harmonic Distortion (THD), total power, and reactive power. These attributes are displayed as a vector superimposed on a three-axis graph having total power as one axis, reactive power as a second axis, and total harmonic distortion as a third axis.

9. U.S. Patent number 5,899,960. "Apparatus and Method for Power Disturbance Analysis by Display of Power Quality Information." Inventor: Moore et al. Issued May 4, 1999. Assigned to Reliable Power Meters, Inc. This invention describes a power monitoring system with associated signal processing and storage capabilities. each leg of a three phase power signal is simultaneously sampled on a plurality of channels to capture the instantaneous content of the power signal without time-skewing between the channels.

10. U.S. Patent number 5,819,203. "Apparatus and Method for Power Disturbance Analysis and Storage." Inventor Moore et al. Issued October 6, 1998. Assigned to Reliable Power Meters, Inc. In this invention, historical data for an electrical signal is retained and displayed by dividing the electrical signal in the time domain into segments.

While there are many other patents that have been issued in this industry, the aforementioned prior arts have been selected to specifically indicate what the present day industry has to offer.

No prior art patents have been found which mimic the instant invention.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention described herein, an apparatus for a Simplified Power Disturbance Indicator With Optional Learning Capability, is a simplified power disturbance gage with limited measurement capabilities. The limited capabilities of the gage does not reduce its application, and these "limited" features have been specifically designed to provide primary power line performance information which is readily understood by the user, without the need for special instrumentation or special training. Line RMS voltage, both three phase, and single phase, is measured and displayed by a plurality of numerical displays, a combination of indicator lights, and a plurality of bar graphs. AC power line surges, sags, transients are measured and displayed. LED bar-graphs tell the operator how long the defect has persisted. Anomalies and dropouts as short as ½ cycle (0.008 seconds) are displayed. The displays automatically latch so that the captured defects are "remembered" until the display circuits are reset by the operator. This latching enables the equipment to "remember" observed defects when no operator is present, as, for example, in the middle of the night. When required, a learning option enables the gage to set its own baseline from previously measured data, or the operator can input known characteristics of the equipment being powered by the AC mains so that only those line defects which can cause the attached equipment to potentially fail are displayed. Such input data can be entered to the system of the present invention from another computer, a hand-held programmer or the like, by means of a provided data input connector which can accept data on a USB (Universal Serial Bus), an RS232 or RS488 conventional serial data bus, or a parallel data bus. External data inputs are optically isolated for safety. The foregoing and other features of the present invention will become more apparent from the following description and accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGURE 1 Illustrates the basic interconnection of the system of the present invention. The AC mains or power lines are connected to the Connection Unit. The Connection Unit provides power and isolated data to the Measurement and Display unit. These components are connected by a cable which may be up to 1000 feet in length. In special assemblies, the connection unit and the measurement unit are integrated into a single assembly. The effective cable length is zero, but the invention as described herein is unchanged.

FIGURE 2. Illustrates the basic measurement system of the Power Disturbance Indicator of the present invention. Although a plurality of such circuits are employed in a self-contained microprocessor, a single channel is illustrated for the sake of brevity and clarity.

FIGURE 3. Illustrates the block diagram of the Measurement and Display section of the Power Disturbance Indicator of the present invention.

FIGURE 4.Illustrates the manual switching section of the Connection Unit of the present invention. Here, the main power is connected to the system of the instant invention. Single phase power or three-phase power may be connected to the Power Disturbance Indicator of the present invention. The operator can select the wiring interfacing , the voltage range, and whether the three phase power is supplied by a DELTA or a WYE power source. Note: the terms “Delta” and “Wye” are conventional and standard terms for identifying the types of three phase electrical connections, accepted within the power industry. Electrical engineers recognize the fact that in a three phase WYE connection, the line to line voltage is 1.73 times the phase voltages, and in the DELTA connection, the line voltage is equal to the phase voltages. These facts are accounted for

in the design of the gage of the present invention.

FIGURE 5. Illustrates the display panel of the Power Disturbance Indicator of the present invention.

The display is centered around a three phase power panel, indicating voltages and power disturbances for phases A, B, and C, When single phase power is used, the phase A display represents the single phase input, and the other phase displays, which are isolated, can be used to monitor such items as single phase load voltages or uninterruptible power supply (UPS) output, simultaneously.

Colored LED (light Emitting Diode indicators) for each input tell the operator whether the power line is normal, if the power line has experienced a spike or surge, or if the power line has suffered a sag in voltage, and for how long these defects have persisted. Displays are latching, and the operator can reset the displays once the data is observed. The latching of the displays enables the equipment to store the disturbing event. The power line disturbances may take place during the night, when there is no one present to observe the disturbing event.

FIGURE 6. Illustrates the basic diagram of the learning option. Only one channel is shown for brevity. A similar option exists for each measurement channel.

DESCRIPTION OF SPECIFIC EMBODIMENTS

The embodiments of this invention are most clearly understood by means of block diagrams. While these block diagrams do not display specific functional details such as exact circuitry, the functional elements as described herein are well to known to those skilled in the art, and these block diagrams define the best mode for implementing the invention described herein.

The actual circuits in each block which are required to perform a specific task may change with developing technology, but the required task which is illustrated in the block diagram does not change.

FIG.1 Illustrates the basic interconnection of the system of the present invention, which consists of two functional elements. These are the Connection Unit **2**, and the Measurement and Display unit **6.** These two units are interconnected by a cable assembly **4**. The cable is terminated at both ends with weather proof connectors **3** and **5 .** The interconnecting cable length is not critical, and may be up to 1000 feet in length. In operation, the connection unit is preferably located close to the power source. For operator convenience, the Measurement and Display Unit **6** is usually located at the equipment being powered by the power source. If desired, both units may be located close to each other, or they can be integrated into a single functional device. Details of the connection unit are illustrated in Fig. 4. The Connection Unit **2** is connected to the AC mains **1** by means of conventional line connectors. **40,41, 42**, and **43**. These terminals allow connection to single phase power, two phase power, or three phase power. In the connection unit, the operator selects the voltage type (three phase or single phase), and the voltage range by means of the switch (1) **46**. The input voltage can range from 117 volts RMS through 480 volts RMS, and when the power mains are three phase, the operator can identify whether the three phase power source is a DELTA connection or a WYE connection. This selection is made by means of switch (2) **39**. A voltage selector jumper **J1** is used to select the nominal operating voltage range. This one time selection is made during the initial installation. As shipped, the control panel is set up to operate at 277 volts RMS, phase to neutral voltage, three Phase, WYE connection.(480 volts RMS line to line voltage. In another similarly WYE connected system, where the line to neutral voltage is 120 volts RMS, the line to line voltage is 208 volts RMS. The jumper wire **J1** is connected to the terminal marked **H4**, item **45.** If the voltage is less than 277 volts RMS, the

jumper **J1** must be moved to terminal **H2,** item **44.**

In Figure 4, we also see the power input terminals. **40,41,42**, and **43.**

When single phase power is used, connection is made through the use of input jacks, A, **41** and B. **42**

For three phase delta power connection, the connections are as follows:

Voltage, Phase A	Connect to: A **41** and B **42**
Voltage, Phase B	Connect to: B **42** and C **43**
Voltage, Phase C	Connect to: C **43** and A **41**

For a WYE connected input, the following connections are used:

Voltage, Phase A	Connect to: N **40** and A **41**
Voltage, Phase B	Connect to: N **40** and B **42**
Voltage, Phase C	Connect to: N **40** and C **43**

The block diagram of the display logic is shown in Figure 3. Here, the isolated voltage for each phase is fed into two analyzer circuits per phase. Analyzers **21, 22,** and **23,** analyze the waveform and compute the RMS voltage for each phase. The output of these analyzers, whose circuitry and operation is well known to those skilled in ~~he~~ the art, is converted to an equivalent DC level and is displayed on the respective voltage displays for each phase **29, 30,** and **31** as an RMS alternating current voltage. All of the analysis, computations and comparisons, and logic elements are performed in a plurality of microprocessors, and support electronics consisting of transistors, gates, resistors, capacitors, and diodes.

The second set of analyzers **24, 25,** and **26** are specialized anomaly detector circuits, including sample and hold devices. These analyzers monitor each phase for normal voltage levels, spikes or surges, sags or dropouts in line voltage. When there is an anomaly, the duration of the

anomaly is displayed on a bar graph display **32,34**, and **36**, associated with the type of loss and the phase that is affected. There are nine LED panel lights which are illuminated when a specific problem is encountered. These panel indicators are best illustrated in figure 5, which shows the performance of the power lines. The lights **18** (green), **19** (amber) and **20** (red) report what the displays are showing. This enables three displays to indicate combinations of eighteen possible problem areas. The displays are self-explanatory and no training is required to understand their meaning. Each display is latching, that is, they retain the last readings until a reset button is depressed by the operator. The latched outputs of the displays are also used in the learning option.

Turning back to figure 3, this part of the system is microcomputer controlled. Clock 1, **27** and clock 2, **28** provide the timing for the system. Clock 1, **27** provides the sample rate for the loss displays at 250 Hz, which clocks the displays at 0.004 seconds, or one quarter of a cycle, when the line frequency is 60 HZ. This clock rate allows the displays to resolve and display the duration equal to one - half cycle of the deficiency or loss. Clock 2, **28** provides the timing for the voltage displays, which are updated forty times a second. This high speed updating improves the accuracy of measurement, and latching helps prevent display flicker.

All timing is derived from the microprocessor, which is clocked at a frequency of 16 megahertz. This 16 MHZ frequency is commonly used for microprocessors of the class used in this invention. It is important to note that new microprocessors are constantly being developed, and many processors that presently exist and those that are developed in the future may be used in this invention, without changing the fundamental intent of the invention.

FIG. 6. Illustrates the single channel basic diagram of the learning option. Note that although three identical learning channels are used, only one channel is shown for brevity. In this section,

data from the loss analyzer or from the loss display is clocked into the first storage element. **47** by clock signal **55**. The storage element holds the data between clocking pulses **55**. The data that has been stored in the first storage element **47**, is also transferred into the second latching element **49** which holds the value. This becomes the data of the "previous reading" when new data is applied to the first storage element. The newest reading is always stored in the first storage element **47.** These two values are compared in comparator **48** and the resulting output is fed to the loss display. This simple scheme reveals the changes in the input as they occur.

When external data is applied to the latching circuit **49**, through the input data port **53**, the inhibit gate **52**, prevents the measured data from being fed into the second latch. **49** when external data is present. The incoming data is stored in an external data register **50**, and supplied as the input to the comparator **48.** In this way, the external data is now compared with the actual measured data. Storage of the data and comparison constitutes the learning option of the present invention.

In this option, the system can compare dynamically measured data or a pre-established data base for the equipment being surveyed by the gage of the present invention..

A hand-operated optional manual "learn button" **51** allows the operator to transfer external data into the comparator on demand, for data learning purposes. This data is usually supplied by the equipment manufacturer or is obtained by measurement and analysis.

This simplified block diagram is repeated several times once for each measurement channel. All circuitry represented here is embodied in the system microprocessor.

Although this invention has been shown and described with respect to detailed embodiments thereof, it will be appreciated and understood by those skilled in the art that various changes in form and detail thereof may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the claimed invention.

OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

The primary object of the Simplified Power Disturbance Indicator of the present invention is to provide simple displays which tell the operator the nature of the electrical problems which exist on the power mains without the need for complicated graphs, or analysis by experienced technicians or engineering professionals.

Another object of the Simplified Power Disturbance Indicator of the present invention is to be be capable of continuously monitoring standard single phase power, phase to neutral or phase to ground voltages in the range of 117 volts RMS to 480 volts RMS. In addition, the Simplified Power Disturbance Indicator shall be capable of measuring the voltage of each phase of a three phase power system, in either a WYE connected system or a Delta connected powered system. Single phase or Three Phase may be switch-selectable, with selectable voltage ranges from 117 volts to 480 volts RMS.

The displays on the Power Disturbance Indicator are dynamic, and continuously display line conditions with particular reference to deviations from normal operation. In general, the gage is meant to be used in this manner, showing the operator what is happening on his power grid. Short duration phenomena such as dropouts are displayed on latching bar graphs. The reading is latched and displayed until reset by the user.

Another object is to provide an option whereby the Simplified Power Disturbance Indicator can be programmed to learn the characteristics of the connected critical load, thus enabling the gage to display only those artifacts on the power mains which affect the performance of the electronic

equipment connected thereto.

OBJECT: MEASUREMENTS

The Simplified Power Disturbance Indicator is used to measure and indicate:

- ★ The voltage of each monitored phase, either single phase or polyphase
- ★ The level of voltage sag or droop on each monitored phase
- ★ The presence of a transient voltage spike on each monitored phase
- ★ The presence and magnitude of a voltage surge or "swell" on each monitored phase
- ★ The number of half-cycle voltage loss on each monitored phase, up to and including One to Ten Half-Cycles.
- ★ The difference between an input voltage and the output of a line conditioning device. Such as an unterruptible power supply or a line conditioner.

OBJECT: INDICATORS

The Simplified Power Disturbance Indicator is equipped with conventional alpha-numeric Light Emitting Diode (LED) numerical indicators . These indicators depict the actual RMS voltage read on each phase of the input. When single phase power is utilized, the voltage levels shall be indicated on the "Phase A" indicator. The input voltages to all phases are isolated. Thereby allowing the phase B and phase C inputs to be used to sample various inputs or outputs on a single phase system. For example, on a single phase system, displays number one and two may be used to simultaneously monitor different portions of the single phase circuit, as for example, the input and output voltage of a line conditioner or Uninterruptible Power Supply.

Transient voltages and non-periodic events are indicated on bar-graph displays which latch the data for each type of event, with the bar graph showing the duration of the voltage surge, sag, or transient event. The present invention can be used with either a 60 Hertz power system or a 50

hertz power system. This one-time frequency range selection is made on the microprocessor board by a selector switch or a hard wired jumper at the time of installation.

The bar graphs can reveal the magnitude and quantity of line voltage transients. In like manner, a bar-graph indicates the voltage surges on each phase, each sag or dropout on each phase. (A, B, or C). Where single phase power is tested, Phase "A" is used as the primary indicator. All graph data will be latched until the displays are reset.

When the Simplified Power Disturbance Indicator is used on three phase power, a switch activated by the user shall select whether the system being measured is a Delta connection or a Wye connection, and also select the nominal voltage of the system to be observed.
There are two fundamental modes of operation which can be selected by the operator.
These include both: "Manual" or"Automatic"
There shall be two Automatic modes: Operator Entry or Self-Teach

In the Manual operator entry mode, the system dynamically and continuously reads the power lines and stores the accumulated anomaly readings. The displays are continuously updated with the last greatest anomaly magnitudes, with the bar graph displays always latching and remembering the last highest reading.

In the manual mode, no data is stored by the system. Dynamic line data is continuously displayed for the operator. Data comparisons are made against a known pre-installed data base.

OPERATOR ENTRY PRE-PROGRAM MODE:

In the Operator Entry pre- program learn mode, the Simplified Power Disturbance Indicator can be programmed by the operator with the known characteristics of the electronic equipment attached to the gage as a load, and the indicators will not be illuminated until the incoming events reach or exceed 80 percent of the previously installed machine or process ratings

For example, if the machine can absorb a transient of 1000 volts, there will be no transient indication until the transient has reached 800 volts or greater. Any selected amplitude can be used.

One important feature of the instant invention is the ability to detect very short dropouts of the AC power mains. This feature is extremely important when relay logic is used, and can be used to determine problems which were previously undetected.

OPERATOR ENTRY LEARN MODE

In the operator entry learn mode, the Simplified Power Disturbance Indicator can read the incoming power lines and display the measured defects, displaying them on a combination of single indicators plus dynamic bar-type displays.

If these measured defects have not produced a machine malfunction, the operator now has the option of depressing a "learn" button. The action of the learn button will store the accumulated information, in internal memory banks, creating a dynamic data base. The data stored in memory can be downloaded to a printer or other display media. Thereafter, in the automatic mode, only magnitudes which exceed the stored values shall be displayed on the Simplified Power Disturbance Indicator readouts. An optional indicator can show that the readouts are based upon a learned data base.

For a new test, the operator can depress a reset button, and new values shall be measured from a zero baseline. If the reset button is not depressed, new stored and indicated values will be those which are higher than the previously measured and stored values.

In the case where the measured values exceed assigned maximums, an alarm can be activated. Alarms will be audible and simultaneously normally open (producing a closure upon a detected power line failure) relay contacts can be provided to activate ancillary equipment. Stored data can also be transmitted by radio, or over wires to remote indicating equipment.

The internal electronics of the gage will also be powered by an internal rechargeable battery. The battery may be rechargeable with power taken from the line being measured if necessary, during conditions when the power line is normal. The gage of the present invention will not be inconvenienced by loss of the power mains, and will function for a minimum of one hour on its internal battery pack, storing data during that period.

To facilitate connection to the power mains, a separate interface module, called a 'connection unit" will be supplied as part of the invention. This first interface keeps the system microprocessor close to the lines being monitored. The second unit, called a measurement and display module can be located up to 1000 feet away from the interface module.

The display module can be located in a remotely located control panel. A terminal block assembly will facilitate connection to the mains being studied, but a simple cable assembly will be used to interface the display module to the monitor circuitry. When desired, both modules can be integrated into a single connection and display product

Internal slide switches are used to select voltage ranges and operating frequency. These are set

during initial installation, and require no further adjustment.

OPERATION OF THE SIMPLIFIED POWER DISTURBANCE INDICATOR WITH LEARNING CAPABILITY OPTIONS

The Simplified Power Disturbance Indicator with learning capability is connected to the electrical power mains into which the machinery to be monitored, is connected. The complete gage consists of two units which are connected by a cable which may be up to 1000 feet in length. The first unit contains the microprocessor, and the second unit contains the display modules. Initially all of the indicator lights, except those that are green (normal), are extinguished, indicating that the power mains are normal, (e.g.) They are within specification. Numerical displays provide voltage readouts to the operator.

As power is utilized either by the connected machine or by other equipment connected to the mains, one or more of the other red or amber indicator lights are illuminated, showing when some kind of anomaly has occurred.

If no harm has befallen the connected equipment (machine) as the result of the line abnormality, the operator then has the option of depressing the LEARN button and the accumulated data is impressed upon the memory. If the learn button is not depressed, the gage always reads from a nominal voltage and zero defect baseline.

When memory is selected, several things immediately begin to happen: (A) The data base becomes the values that were just entered into memory and (B) an amber light on the panel indicates that new data was just memorized by the Simplified Power Disturbance Indicator with learning capability

OPTIONS.

This remembered data remains in a first data register until another event status is recorded and manually memorized as just described. In this event, the contents of the first register is dumped into a second register, and the new data is entered into the first register.

In this manner, the gage always contains two sets of line anomaly data. The data just measured and the data previously measured and stored in the data base (learned data). In each case, the base-line of the gage is constantly increasing, until a point is reached where the new data is accompanied by either an unstable condition of the machinery or a pre-determined maximum that is allowable for the machine, as determined by the specifications. These maximum values may be learned and are usually entered into a special register which stores the maximum values. This storage feature allows a comparison to be constantly made between the second register and the maximum register,

When these two registers are equal, (or within a pre-set percentage of each other), an alarm may be sounded.

With the alarm, a control line is pulled down, causing the data in the second register to be transferred to the data displays. The displays now reveal the maximum operating levels of the AC line.

The system displays the maximum values which have been measured at the instant of the alarm. Note that the gage is constantly monitoring line RMS voltage, line peak voltage, line sags, line surges, and transient phenomena. Any of these may initiate the alarm, and the appropriate LED display chain, consisting of the type of defect, and its duration in half-cycles will be illuminated. A latching display or display driven memory will show the magnitude of the element which caused the display to function and optional alarm to sound.

When the second register has reached the maximum values, the first register contains a set of data which is lower in magnitude than the second or the maximum register. The differential magnitude is now part of the data base.